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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG | 265

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Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

PREVIOUSLY...

SONIC: UNLEASHED!

The Shattered World Crisis is upon us! It would be dangerous enough with the planet's crust broken and free-floating, but from the depths of the globe a dark essence has been seeping out. People grow angry, depressed, and lose their inhibitions. Even worse, monsters appear every night to attack!

Sonic received a concentrated dose of this Dark Gaia energy, and his usual cool attitude has seemed strained lately. During a mission to retrieve a Chaos Emerald, Sonic and his friends were ambushed by Egg Boss Thunderbolt and her Egg Army unit.

As Sonic watched his friends fall to Thunderbolt's fiendish trap, he lost all composure, and something else was unleashed...

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AT SEGA LICENSING

ZZZZT!
RRRRRGH!
SMASH!
SZZT!
SMASH!

EGG BOSS THUNDERBOLT
REGIONAL WARLORD
SINCE WHEN COULD HE--?
AHEM! WELL? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
ATTACK!
I SAID ATTACK!
FINE, THEN! COME AT ME, YOU SNARLING--!
CRUNCH!

thud!
whump!
splat!
Y-YOU SAVAGE! Y-YOU'LL P-PAY FOR THIS HUMILIATION! I'LL--!
RAAARGH!
AAAAAAH!
MY POOR SONIC! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?!
IT HAS TO BE A REACTION TO HIS EXPOSURE TO THE DARK GAIA ENERGY.* TO THINK HE'S BEEN ENDURING THE POISONING FOR SO LONG...
WE HAVE TO STOP HIM! HELP HIM!
OF COURSE, BUT...HOW?
YOU GUYS GET THE CHAOS EMERALD.
I'LL HANDLE SONIC.
*STH #254.

GET AWAY FROM ME!
SHUNK!
YOU WILL--
--BACK OFF!
KRA-KOOM
RRRGH!
THAT'S RIGHT, BRUTE!
I HAVE MORE POWER IN MY LITTLE FINGER THAN YOU HAVE IN YOUR ENTIRE--!

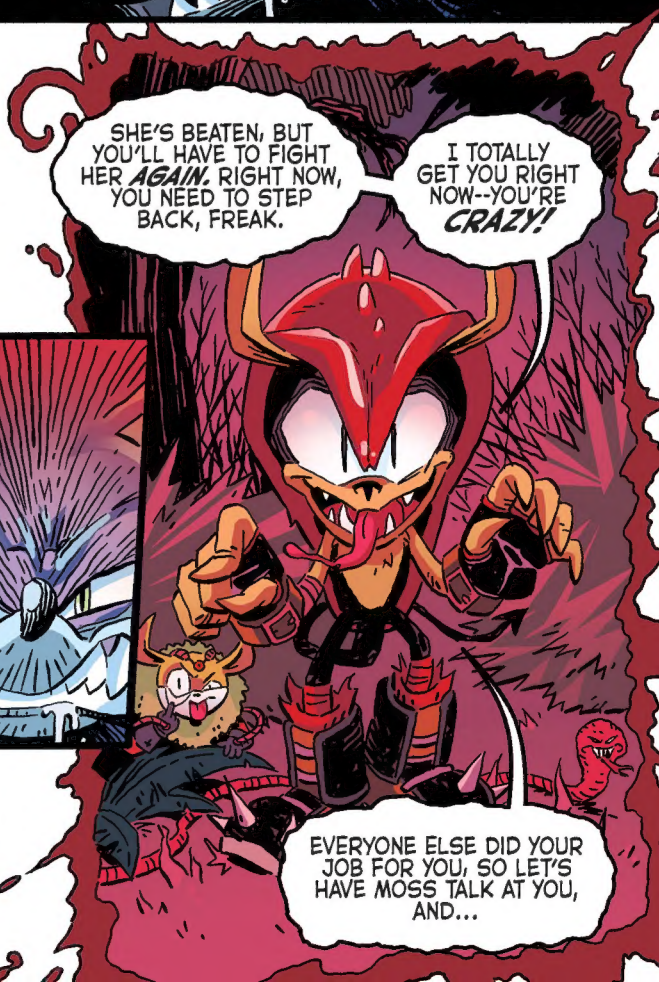
ALL THE ANIMALS--!
OH, WHAT? YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THEM? DEFY ME AND THEY'RE ALL ONE GIANT BARBECUE! BEG FOR MERCY, AND I MAY--
SHING!
RAAARGH!
WHUD

SONIC, LISTEN TO ME. THIS ISN'T YOU.
YOU DON'T DO THIS.

YES, SHE TRIED TO KILL US ALL. THAT'S UNFORGIVABLE.
BUT YOU SAVED US. YOU STOPPED HER.

SHE'S GETTING AWAY!

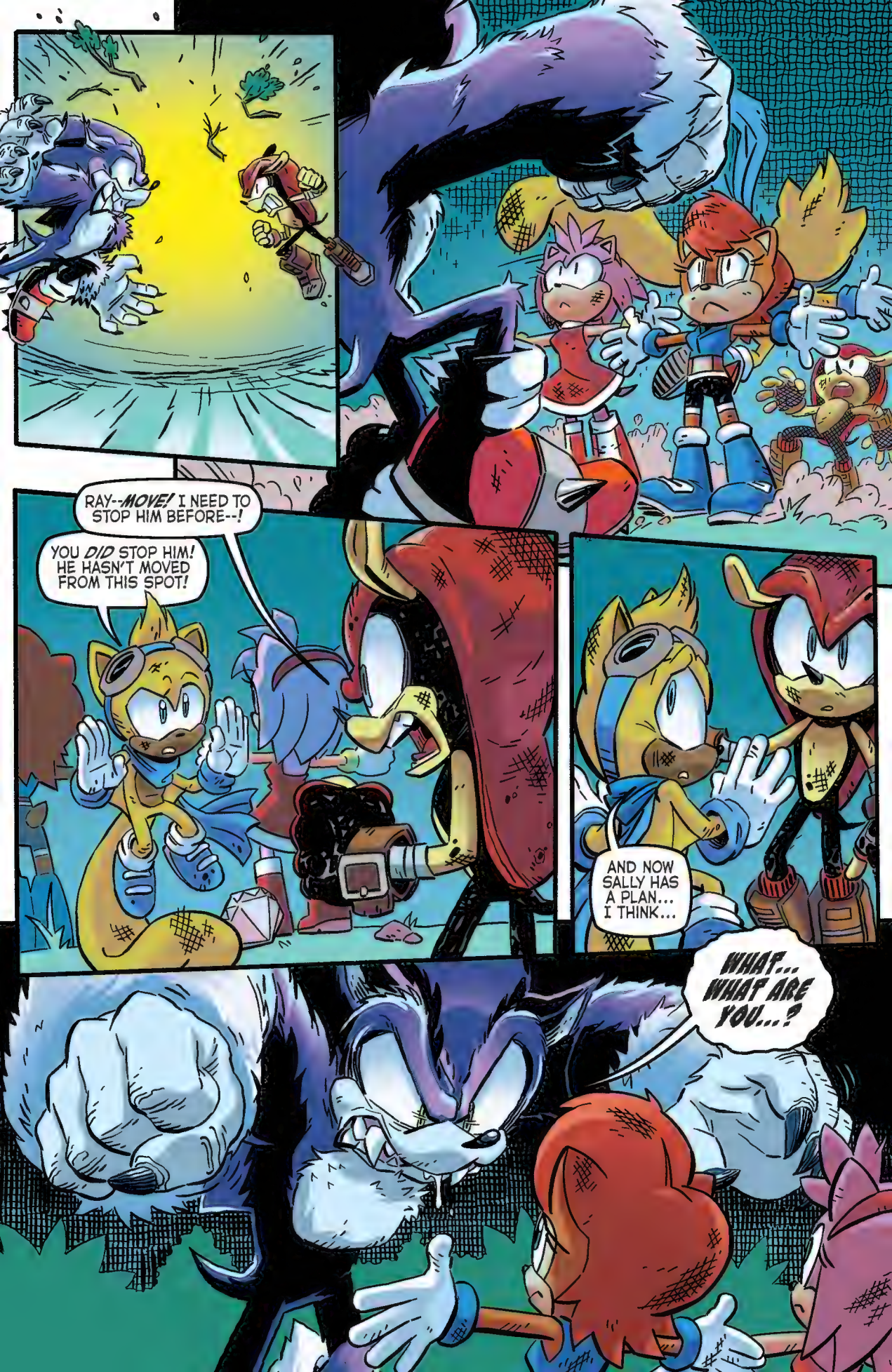
SHE'S BEATEN. WE'LL FIGHT HER ANOTHER DAY. RIGHT NOW, I NEED YOU TO BRING IT DOWN A NOTCH.
I'VE BEEN WHERE YOU ARE. ALL THAT POWER, AND TOO MUCH WRONG IN THE WORLD... IT'S ENOUGH TO DRIVE ANYONE CRAZY.
LISTEN. RAY AND THE LADIES ARE SECURING THE CHAOS EMERALD. WE CAN GO TALK TO MOSS, AND...

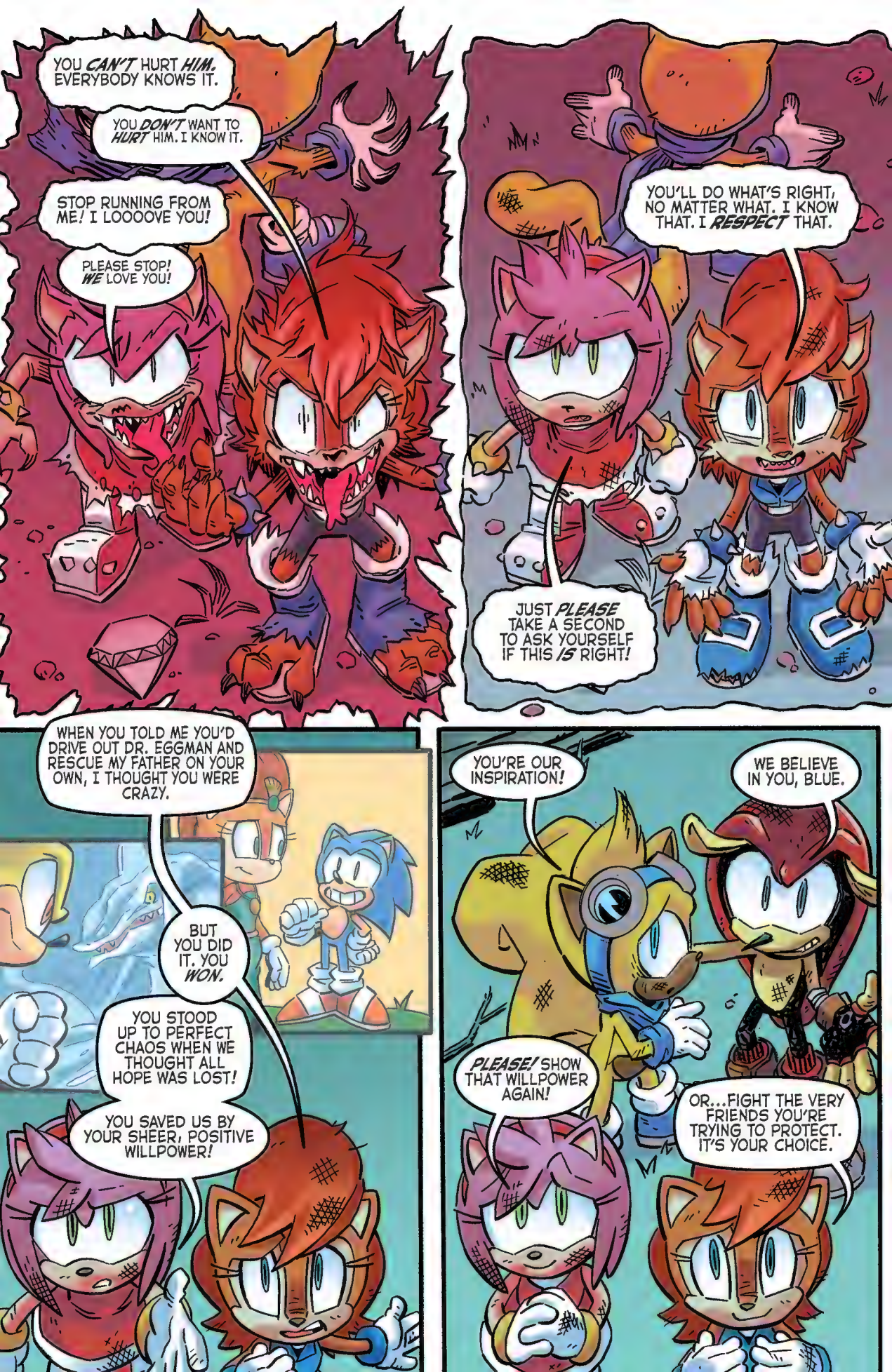

SHE'S BEATEN, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGHT HER AGAIN. RIGHT NOW, YOU NEED TO STEP BACK, FREAK.
I TOTALLY GET YOU RIGHT NOW--YOU'RE CRAZY!
EVERYONE ELSE DID YOUR JOB FOR YOU, SO LET'S HAVE MOSS TALK AT YOU, AND...

YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?!
I MEANT --!
LISTEN! CONTROL THE RAGE, OR IT CONTROLS Y-- EURGH!
SMASH
MEASURED BREATHS, MIGHTY. HE'S YOUR FRIEND. HE NEEDS HELP.

THE WAY SALLY TELLS IT, A LESSER MAN WOULD'VE BEEN FULLY CORRUPTED BY NOW. BUT I *KNOW* YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO OVERCOME THIS.
FIGHT THE URGE. STAY DOWN.
SALLY SAYS YOU'RE A LESSER MAN. *CORRUPTED.* I KNOW YOU'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT ME.
STAY DOWN.

THEY'RE TEARING THE JUNGLE APART!
OH, SONIC... WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US...?
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF--GRRK!
I'M NOT ASHAMED OF ANYTHING!
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
OKAY --OKAY-- OKAY-- THINK!
SONIC ALWAYS DOES WHAT HE THINKS IS RIGHT.
THE INFECTION MUST BE CORRUPTING HIS PERCEPTION.
HE THINKS MIGHTY IS IN THE WRONG.
SO WE'D NEED TO...
RAY, STOP MIGHTY. AMY, FOLLOW MY LEAD!

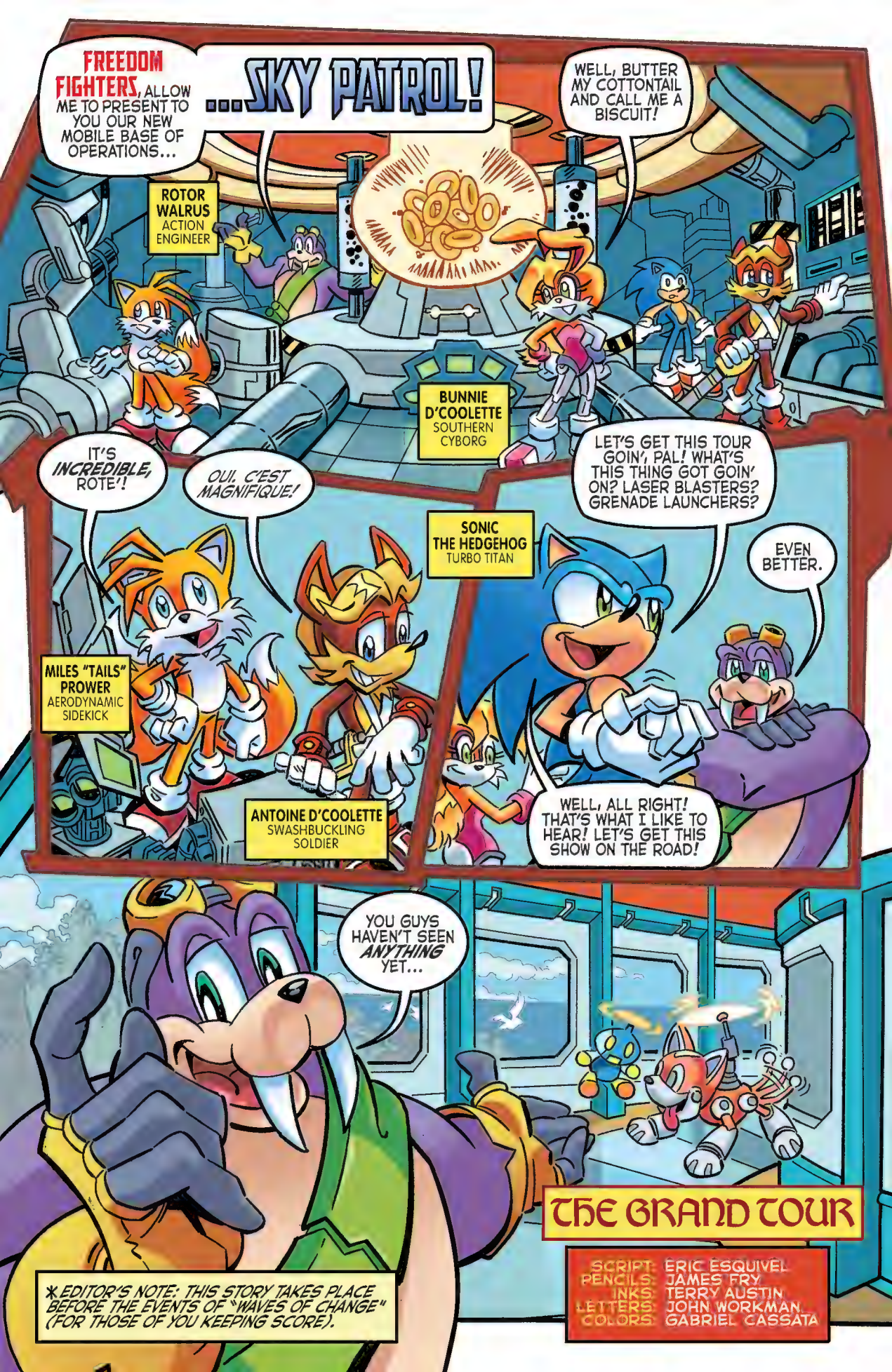

RAY--MOVE! I NEED TO STOP HIM BEFORE--!
YOU DID STOP HIM! HE HASN'T MOVED FROM THIS SPOT!
AND NOW SALLY HAS A PLAN... I THINK...
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU...?

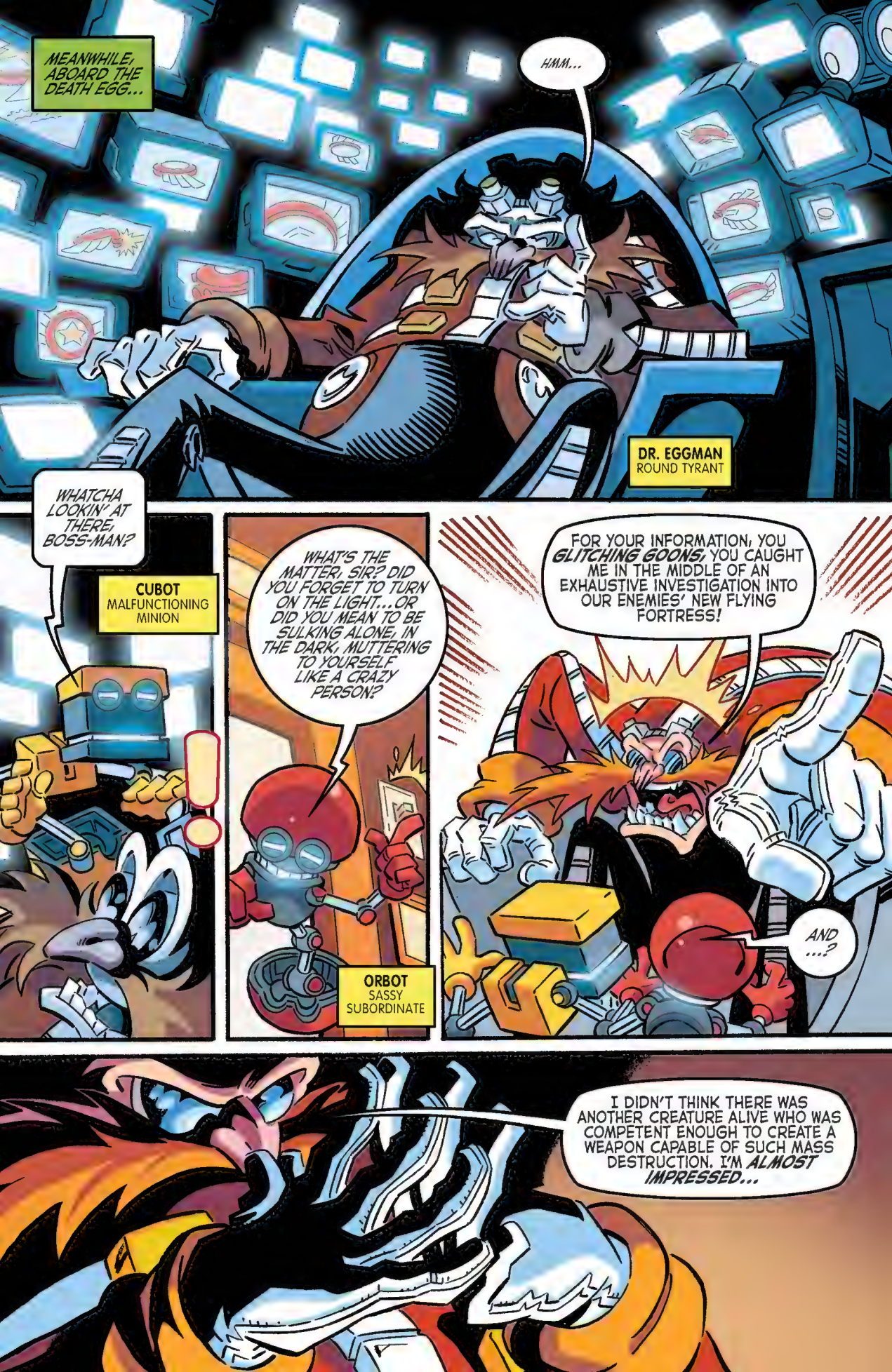

YOU CAN'T HURT HIM. EVERYBODY KNOWS IT.
YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM. I KNOW IT.
STOP RUNNING FROM ME! I LOOOOVE YOU!
PLEASE STOP! WE LOVE YOU!
YOU'LL DO WHAT'S RIGHT, NO MATTER WHAT. I KNOW THAT. I RESPECT THAT.
JUST PLEASE TAKE A SECOND TO ASK YOURSELF IF THIS IS RIGHT!
WHEN YOU TOLD ME YOU'D DRIVE OUT DR. EGGMAN AND RESCUE MY FATHER ON YOUR OWN, I THOUGHT YOU WERE CRAZY.
BUT YOU DID IT. YOU WON.
YOU STOOD UP TO PERFECT CHAOS WHEN WE THOUGHT ALL HOPE WAS LOST!
YOU SAVED US BY YOUR SHEER, POSITIVE WILLPOWER!
YOU'RE OUR INSPIRATION!
WE BELIEVE IN YOU, BLUE.
PLEASE! SHOW THAT WILLPOWER AGAIN!
OR...FIGHT THE VERY FRIENDS YOU'RE TRYING TO PROTECT. IT'S YOUR CHOICE.

I WAS TRYING TO...BUT I WANTED...
THERE'S MY SONIC!
COME ON--WE SHOULD GET GOING BEFORE THE EGG ARMY REGROUPS.

LATER, AT MOSS'S HOME...
...AND I COULD HEAR MIGHTY, BUT...
...EVERYTHING CAME ACROSS WRONG. LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO TICK ME OFF...
MOSS THE SLOTH THE SAGE SAGE
UNCLE CHUCK TOLD YOU TO SEE A DOCTOR!
YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M SORRY! I THOUGHT I HAD IT UNDER CONTROL...
...BUT I DIDN'T. THANKS FOR KEEPING ME IN CHECK, BIG MAN.
I SLOWED YOU DOWN, THAT'S ALL. YOU TOOK CONTROL OF YOURSELF. YOU KEPT YOUR INNER SELF UNCORRUPTED.
YOU SOUND LIKE MOSS. THAT'S WEIRD COMING FROM YOU.
HE HAS TAKEN MY LESSONS TO HEART. HERE IS ANOTHER: NEW DAYS...
...BRING NEW BEGINNINGS.
SONIC?!

≥GASP≤ YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL!
I... GUESS ?
THANK GOODNESS. WE'LL GET YOU AND THE CHAOS EMERALD BACK TO SKY PATROL, AND THEN WE'LL START FIGURING OUT...
...NO.
WHATEVER HAPPENED LAST NIGHT... IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AGAIN.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE IT ON THE SKY PATROL, WHEN WE'RE CRAMMED IN THAT WINGED BOX THOUSANDS OF FEET ABOVE THE GROUND.
I'M STAYING HERE TO GET A HANDLE ON MYSELF.
AND I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL I DO.
Sonic- On the Sidelines! Can the Freedom Fighters Handle the Next Threat Without Him?
UNTIL NEXT TIME, CHECK OUT SONIC UNIVERSE, "SONIC COMIC ORIGINS" IN SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE AND SONIC SUPER DIGEST, AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY! AND DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE ALL-NEW MONTHLY COMIC SERIES - SONIC BOOM! COMING SOON!


FREEDOM FIGHTERS, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT TO YOU OUR NEW MOBILE BASE OF OPERATIONS...
...SKY PATROL!
WELL, BUTTER MY COTTONTAIL AND CALL ME A BISCUIT!
ROTOR WALRUS ACTION ENGINEER
BUNNIE D'COOLETTE SOUTHERN CYBORG
IT'S INCREDIBLE, ROTE'!
OUI, C'EST MAGNIFIQUE!
MILES "TAILS" PROWER AERODYNAMIC SIDEKICK
ANTOINE D'COOLETTE SWASHBUCKLING SOLDIER
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG TURBO TITAN
LET'S GET THIS TOUR GOIN', PAL! WHAT'S THIS THING GOT GOIN' ON? LASER BLASTERS? GRENADE LAUNCHERS?
EVEN BETTER.
WELL, ALL RIGHT! THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO HEAR! LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
YOU GUYS HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET...
*EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE EVENTS OF "WAVES OF CHANGE" (FOR THOSE OF YOU KEEPING SCORE).
THE GRAND TOUR
SCRIPT: ERIC ESQUIVEL
PENCILS: JAMES FRY
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN
COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA


MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE DEATH EGG...
HMM...
DR. EGGMAN
ROUND TYRANT
WHATCHA LOOKIN' AT THERE, BOSS-MAN?
CUBOT
MALFUNCTIONING MINION
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SIR? DID YOU FORGET TO TURN ON THE LIGHT...OR DID YOU MEAN TO BE SULKING ALONE, IN THE DARK, MUTTERING TO YOURSELF LIKE A CRAZY PERSON?
ORBOT
SASSY SUBORDINATE
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, YOU GLITCHING GOONS, YOU CAUGHT ME IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION INTO OUR ENEMIES' NEW FLYING FORTRESS!
AND ...?
I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANOTHER CREATURE ALIVE WHO WAS COMPETENT ENOUGH TO CREATE A WEAPON CAPABLE OF SUCH MASS DESTRUCTION. I'M ALMOST IMPRESSED...

"...TOO BAD IT'S ABOUT TO GET BLOWN OUT OF THE SKY! HAHAHAHA!"
CHECK OUT THIS WATER PRESSURE! ARE YOU KIDDING ME RIGHT NOW?
UMMM ...COOL?
POKE!
I MEAN ...COOL!
(NOT SURE I REMEMBER THAT BEING A PRIORITY WHEN WE BUILT THIS, BUT OKAY...)
WE'VE GOT A FULLY STOCKED MEDICAL BAY! WITH NINETEEN DIFFERENT KINDS OF TOPICAL OINTMENTS!
ZIS IS...VERY THOUGHTFUL, MON AMI.
OUR OWN ZEN GARDEN, SO WE CAN MEDITATE IN BETWEEN MISSIONS!
GREAT. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I LIKE MORE THAN SITTING STILL, IT'S BEING QUIET.
LISTEN, ROTOR...SKY PATROL IS COOL AND ALL, BUT I JUST FIGURED IT'D BE A LITTLE MORE...Y'KNOW...
WEE-OO! WEE-OO!
WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S SKY PATROL'S EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS! THEY CLICK ON WHENEVER THEY SENSE A BADNIK'S TECH SIGNATURE. WE MUST BE UNDER ATTACK!
WARNING! WARNING!
OH, THANK GOODNESS.
I KNOW, RIGHT? I WAS STARTING TO FALL ASLEEP...

DON'T WORRY, ROTOR. WE WON'T LET ANYBODY BREAK YOUR NEW TOY, MAN. JUST POINT US TOWARD THE EXIT, AND WE'LL GET OUT THERE AND...
IT'S COOL, I GOT THIS.
C'MON, YOU DIDN'T THINK I DIDN'T *ARM* THIS THING, DIDJA?!
WHOA.
SERIOUSLY.
FREEDOM FIGHTERS, PREPARE TO MEET YOUR *DOOM* AT THE HANDS OF MY NEWEST BADNIK HORDE COMMANDER... THE *WAR WALRUS!*
ANYTHING YOUR PURPLE PAL CAN CREATE, MY METALLIC MECHANIC CAN DESTROY *TWICE* AS FAST!
CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.

SKY PATROL: WEAPONS SYSTEMS
VOLKAN CANNON
ANTI-AIR MISSILES
LASER BLASTER
PARTICLE BEAM CANNON
OMOCHAO GUN
SONIC POWER CANNON
GOODNESS GRACIOUS, SUGAH!
SERIOUSLY, 'ROTE. NEXT TIME, LEAD WITH THE GOOD STUFF.
YOU MEAN THE WEAPONS? NAW, MAN--THAT STUFF'S BORING. ANYBODY CAN BUILD A WEAPON. EVEN DR. EGGMAN. YOU SHOULD SEE THE COMIC BOOK AND VIDEO GAME LIBRARY! NOW, THAT IS WORTH GETTING EXCITED ABOUT!
>BZZT<
DOES. NOT. COMPUTE.
THERE THERE, BOSS!
THEY CAN'T ALL BE WINNERS, SIR.
SLAM!
BAH! THERE'S NO NEED FOR CONSOLATION, YOU FABRICATED FOOLS! I WAS MERELY GAUGING MY ENEMIES' DEFENSES. CLEARLY, WALKING THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR OF THEIR NEW "SKY PATROL" IS NOT AN OPTION. I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE A MORE SUBTLE APPROACH NEXT TIME...
C-C-CREEPY.
YOWZA!
NOT THE END!

SONIC GRAMS

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WRITE TO US @: MY SONIC GRAMS C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC. P.O. BOX #419 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419 E-MAIL: SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM OR TWEET AT US USING #SONICGRAMS!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
I'd just like to say that Ben Hunzeker and Tracy Yardley are an awesome team! Hunzeker's coloring really complements Yardley's pencils. I've never really taken into account how much the colors affect the pencils in the comics.

Oh yes! Tracy's pencil work speaks for itself, but adding color to an illustration can really push the overall piece further by adding another layer of depth and dimension! Ben has such a wonderful painterly quality about his colors that works really well with Tracy's art. Be on the look-out for Ben's colors on the next issue of Sonic the Hedgehog! And don't forget the awesome inks from our very own Terry Austin and Jim Amash!

Will Tyson Hesse be drawing any full issues? His cover work in issue 258 was awesome!

Joey E. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the question, Joey! Our boy Tyson has just pencilled two lead stories back to back! Sonic the Hedgehog #264 and the issue you hold in your hands right now, Sonic the Hedgehog #265! If you'd like to see more of Tyson's awesome work be sure to let us know via e-mail, snail mail or on Twitter! Just use #SonicGrams in your shout out!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
I am one of Sonic's biggest fans and I have collected the Sonic Archives Graphic Novels since I was 7. I have a few questions I would like to ask.

You shall have the usual, my friend!

Are we going to see more of Silver?

*You will see more of our psychokinetic hedgehog pal in the very near future! Quite possibly in another book of UNIVERSAL proportions! Mwahahahaha-*cough!* *ack!* *blargh!* ...haha!*

Second, how will Mighty be depicted when he comes back?

Take a look for yourself in this very issue! Although, seeing him through the Werehog's eyes may give you a false interpretation at times! Boy that was creepy!

Lastly will Sticks the Badger be a comic character?

Aiden P. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the letter, Aiden! Sticks will be prominently featured in our ALL-NEW Sonic Boom comic book series! The monthly adventures begin this October so be sure to call and reserve your copy at your local comic shop (ask a parent and dial 1-888-comic-book for a comic store nearest you!), or pre-order your subscription to catch all the Sticks the Badger action! You can find the subscription offer towards the beginning of this comic book! Plugplugplugplugplugplugplug!!!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
I'm wondering. Why have you been teasing us with Sonic's transformation!? Please let me know!

Emily T. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the quick comment, Emily! Well we wanted to keep our readers in suspense and anticipation! Looks like it paid off because we're in full-on Werehog mode now!

See y'all next time for an all-new story as Sonic tries to tame the beast within while the Freedom Fighters face troubles of their own in "Ambushed" part one!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #265

ADVENTURE VARIANT BY
Rafa Knight

CONVENTION EXCLUSIVE VARIANT BY
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NEXT ISSUE: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 266

AMBUSHED

PART 1 OF 2

SUPER SMASH VAR.

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